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POET'S CORNER.

THE OLD FOLKS' ROOM.

The old man sat by the chimney side—
His face was wrinkled and wan,
And he leaned both hands on his stout oak cane
As if all his work were done.

His coat was of good old fashioned grey,
The pockets were deep and wide
Where his "specs" and his steel tobacco box
Lay snugly by his side.

The old man liked to stir the fire,
So near him the logs were kept;
Sometimes he moved as he gazed on the coals,
Sometimes he sat and slept.

What saw he in the embers there?
Ah! pictures of olden years;
That now and then awakened smiles,
But often started tears.

His good wife sat on the other side,
In a high backed, ragged chair;
I saw her take the pole of her wooden cap,
The silver of her silver hair.

There's a happy look on her aged face,
As she busily knits for him,
And Nellie takes up the stitches dropped,
For grandmother's eyes are dim.

The children come and read the news,
To pass the time each day;
How it stirs the blood of an old man's heart,
To hear of the world away.

Is a homey scene I told you so,
But pleasant it is to view;
At least I thought it so myself,
And watched it down for you.

Be kind unto the old, my friend,
They're worn with this world's strife;
Though bravely once (perhaps they fought)
The stern, fierce battle of life.

They taught your youthful feet to climb
Upward life's rugged steep;
Then let us gently lead them down
To where the weary sleep.

MISCELLANEOUS.

THE COURSE OF THE STATES

The Government of the Confederate States consisting of its Executive, Legislative and Judicial Departments, is the mere agent of the sovereign States composing the Confederacy. This agency has been in operation but two years, and it has already rendered it necessary that after the war is over, a Convention of the sovereign States should be called together to determine its limitations. The people and the States are unwilling, in the midst of the war now raging between the Confederate States and the United States, to dispute or deny the powers the Government of the Confederate States has assumed. When a ship is in a storm, which endangers the lives of all on board, passengers may refuse to resent indignities put upon them by the captain or the crew. Although they could have them all thrown overboard, it is better for them to wait until the ship is safe in port. And so it is with the States composing the Confederacy. They must bide their time. They must drive their enemies out of their borders, and vindicate their independence against their utmost rage. Having accomplished this, they will turn round on their agents of the Confederate Government, and settle with them on account of their usurpations. There are three vital points, on which it has assumed questionable powers. Let us enumerate them:

1. The Confederate Government has assumed the power of appropriating money from the Treasury to build railroads. The justification is military necessity. If it is good, then all branches of internal improvement, which facilitate the transportation of troops or munitions of war, are within the scope of appropriations by the Confederate Government. The Confederate Government is omnipotent over the whole subject.

2. Under the power given to Congress "to raise and support armies," Congress has claimed the power to conscribe and put into the army of the Confederate States all the State officials by which the State Governments are carried on. If Congress possesses this power, then it

has the power, of abolishing the States. The existence of the Confederacy requires that this matter shall be rightfully settled.

3. Congress claims the power of laying direct taxes—taxing land and slaves. If this power is to continue to exist without question in the Congress of the Confederate States, it may abolish slavery by taxation. This is too vital a matter to be left in doubt.

To consider these three points, it appears to us, a Convention of the States, after the war is over, should be called. Three States can summon the Convention. The Constitution says: "Upon the demand of any three States, legally assembled in their several Conventions, the Congress shall summon a Convention of all the States, to take into consideration such amendments to the Constitution as the said States shall concur in suggesting at the time when said demand is made."

We have thrown out these suggestions because we see that the Governor of Georgia has called the Legislature of Georgia together. We deprecate any action by the States upon the important matters we have adverted to, until the war is over.—*Richmond Correspondent, Mercury.*

THE ANTI-SUBSTITUTE LAW.—Judge Pearson of N. C. in a *habes corpus* case which was recently tried before him, decided that the recent act of Congress to conscribe persons who have furnished substitutes for the war is unconstitutional. The Raleigh Progress says he has, however, made an arrangement with Gov. Bragg, the Attorney for the Confederate States, as follows:

Bragg will take up the case of Walton, upon which the arguments were made, by *certiorari* to the Supreme Court which meets in June. And the Judge, in every similar case before him, has recognized the party in the sum of \$1,000 to report himself to the enrolling officer of his county or district within three days after the decision in Walton's case shall be made known to him, in case the decision shall be against Walton.

The hardest crack Mr. Memminger has yet received is that found at the close of the petition of a beggar (a solitary specimen) who was going about the up-town streets last week. The petition set forth that the man's house had been burnt about two months ago; that he was in distress, needed aid, and was willing to take "food, or clothing, or even money."—*Mercury.*

DEATH.—Mr. John M. Elliott, the oldest printer in the United States, died at his residence in Jersey City on the 21st ult. He was the only survivor of the celebrated Miranda expedition, fitted out in 1804 in New York City against the Spanish Main, he, with others, having been inveigled into the affair by representations that they were going to New Orleans as printers. Mr. Elliott was long confined in a Spanish prison.

FEDERAL OPPRESSION AT VICKSBURG.—A reign of oppression has commenced at Vicksburg. The kindness that has been exhibited towards the inhabitants by the Federals was merely the fur that covered the tiger's claws. The unfortunate people who are obliged to remain there will find the tyrant's grip tightened daily until it becomes unbearable. Here is an account of an outrage committed recently in that unfortunate city:

On New Year's day the Yankees consented to allow Parson Fox, Warren County, to open the Episcopal church and have service, omitting the prayer for the President of the United States. With this understanding, the church was opened and a great number of the old citizens repaired there at the usual hour, to attend divine service. As Mr. Fox was about entering the pulpit, some Yankee officers admonished him as he valued his life not to omit the prayer for Lincoln, and the old gentleman, being at their mercy, in the course of the service prayed for the President of the United States, whereupon several ladies left the church. This, of course, infuriated the Yankees, and two hours afterwards the provost marshal informed the ladies that every one who left the church would be allowed forty-eight hours to leave the town, and if caught there after that time they would be remanded to the county jail. The ladies immediately prepared to leave, and, at the expiration of the time allowed, every one of them was out of the lines. Gen. McPherson caused printed placards to be posted all through the city, warning the ladies of their banishment and the time given them to get away.

Northern papers confirm the disbanding of Wilcox's six months corps. It re-enlisted under the offer of sixty days' furlough and four hundred and seventy five dollars bounty.

GENERAL CONGRESSES.

As a General Congress is shortly to be held in Europe, it is a subject of historical curiosity to look back and see when and on what occasions those convocations which have changed the international relations of Europe have been held. The approaching Congress promises to effect some important modifications of these relations. The first General Congress was that at which the treaty of Westphalia (1643) became the public law of Europe. It composed the religious dissensions which, arising out of the Reformation, had torn and afflicted Europe for thirty years. It produced this great change; the religious passions ceased to agitate Europe. The objects and occasions of hostility became, subsequently, commerce and the extension of territory.

The Congress that formed the treaty of Utrecht (1713) was the next occasion of a great change. It closed the war of the Spanish succession, and restrained the ambition of Louis XIV. and made extensive changes in the territorial relations of Europe.

The treaty of Paris (1763) was not productive of further results than to close the seven years' war, and no farther to affect the international relations of Europe than to confirm the claim of Prussia to the rank of a first rate power.

The General Congress, that made the settlement of 1815, upsetting all the elder Napoleon's territorial arrangements, was the most important after the treaty of Utrecht in the annals of diplomacy.

The relations towards each other of the States of Europe, as they stood before Bonaparte made the changes that followed his triumphs, were not restored to the condition in which they stood before the French revolution. New adjustments were made. A different equilibrium was established. Denmark was divested of Norway and it was transferred to Sweden. The balance consequently, between the Scandinavian States was destroyed. A republic, that of Warsaw, was established in Poland, and the wrong done to that power by the partition partially redressed. The German Confederation was amended, with other changes, which materially altered the territorial and other relations of the European States towards each other.

What will be the character of the changes made, if any, by the approaching Congress, it is impossible to forecast. That Louis Napoleon contemplates some important modifications of that settlement is highly probable. He has summoned all the States of Europe, large and small, to participate in its deliberations. His genius in diplomacy will be largely exercised on that occasion. All, it is said, have consented to attend, except Great Britain. That new complications will arise, we think highly probable, and the ostensible object appearing to be appeasing passions that threaten to kindle a new conflagration, may not only not be accomplished, but fresh fuel added to the smouldering fires.

PAV PICTURE OF MOSBY.—He looks no bandit chief. Of medium stature, delicate, lithe form, brown hair, blue eyes, and a moustache, and an expression the antipode of ferocious, he evinces no physical tokens signalling the audacious and successful partisan leader he is. He was dressed in a rebel major's full dress uniform. He gave us his history before and during the war, and it was a most agreeable recital. He acted and spoke as a gentleman, with no show of vulgarity or bullying cruelty, or lurking sneers at his victims. At times he could not suppress a chuckle over his successes in accomplishing certain captures and avoidance of being captured himself; but this was very natural.

"You must be quite a lion," I remember remarking to him, "particularly among the ladies, so naturally worshipful of heroes of your school?"

"Well, well," he said, stroking his moustache, "I roar a little."

MORE TRUTH THAN POETRY.—A lady of this city, writing to her friend in the country, says: "The great buzz of our city, at present, is around the 'Bee-hive.' The rules of the crowd are—push, jam, squeeze, pinch, choke, stick with pins, stab with your elbows, and give as much impudence as possible. It spoils a woman's temper, patience, pride and clothes. Don't come, if you can possible stay away. Buy your goods by proxy, and let that proxy wear pantaloons. If you are frantic to try the experiment, however, rub your face with a brass candlestick before you start, with your pockets bountifully supplied with Confederate notes, a little silver on the tongue, iron in the heart, brass in the face, and lead in your boots, you may venture, but these are indispensable."—*Carolinian.*

THE NEW YORK BANKS.—The Bank Presidents of New York and Albany have had a meeting, in which the national system adopted by Secretary Chase, was bitterly opposed. It was claimed that the advantage given to national banks in relief from taxation, etc., would drive the State banks out of existence. One of the speakers urged that the new system would prove not only dangerous, but in the end ruinous, and intimated that it would force a war of sections; that no sooner was the war ended than a financial revolution throughout the North would follow. All of the speakers urged State protection, and showed that the banks of New York held some 24,000,000 of bullion, which they could sell at an enormous profit, but kept as a balance-wheel, while the national banks were not called upon to keep specie to redeem their notes, and had nothing to fall back upon.

Mr. Coe, the engineer, as he is styled, of the Bank of England, has invented a bank note for that institution with a flaggee pattern which could not be counterfeited, but it costs too much to be introduced into use. The notes of the Bank of Bengal are covered on one side with what appear to be mere lines, but under the microscope they are found to be repetitions of the value and denomination.

FANCY AND FACT.—Yankee girl to her Yankee beau—"When do you expect to get to Richmond?"

Yankee beau—"When the spring time comes, gentle Annie."

Confederate girl to her Confederate beau—"When will you leave Richmond?"

Confederate beau—"When this cruel war is over."

ANECDOTE OF GEN. WISE.—We heard a day or two ago, says the Petersburg Express, a good story told upon Gen. Wise, which we believe has never been in print. Whilst encamped on the Peninsula he one day was riding along some road in the vicinity of his quarters, and came upon one of his wagons which was fast stalled. The driver was a white man. Upon seeing this spectacle he reined up his horse, and looking upon John, said: "Here is a fine wagon and team going to destruction for want of a driver." The latter, fixing his eye upon the General, instantly retorted: "Yes, and here is a very fine brigade, too, going to destruction for want of a Brigadier." The General soon resumed his journey at a quickened pace.

A correspondent of the Liverpool Post, gives the following amusing account of the manner in which Capt. Semmes tricked a Yankee in the Straits of Sunda:

We are a little excited with intelligence from Penang that the Confederate States steamer Alabama is cruising about there. She took two Yankees in the straits of Sunda, and was pursued by the Vanderbilt. When night came on, the Alabama was about twenty miles ahead, and under cover of darkness she unshipped her funnel, put out her fires, and set sail. The ship was then put about, and stood in the direction of where they had last seen the Vanderbilt. At daybreak she was within a mile of the Vanderbilt, who bore down and inquired if they had seen a large steamer standing to the northward. Captain Semmes replied: "Yes; she was going ahead full speed and must be one hundred miles away by this." The Vanderbilt immediately put on all steam, and went on a wild goose chase, while Semmes quietly shipped his funnel, and bore away in an opposite direction. It was reported last night that the Alabama was outside of Amherst.

GEN. FINEGAN.—General Finegan, the hero of Lake City, is an Irishman by birth. In early life he enlisted as a private in the United States regular army. After his discharge he removed to Florida, where he became employed, we are informed, as an engineer. By intelligence and good conduct he prospered in his affairs, married eligibly, and became a leading citizen. Since the breaking out of the war he has risen in the Confederate service to the rank of Brigadier General; and he has just won a victory which makes him famous at home and honored throughout the Confederacy. In him we have another reminder of the gratitude which we owe to our soldiers of foreign birth, and of the kindness which we should manifest to them.

PRICE'S ARMY.—The last accounts represent Gen. Price to be only a few miles back of Washington, Ark. with a fine army—numbers it is needless for well known reasons to name. The army is in fine plight and most excellent spirits.